

GERMAN, Michael S., *et al.*  
Appl. No.: Filed Herewith  
Preliminary Amendment

PATENT

REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, claims 31-34 are pending. Claims 21-30 are canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to prosecute the subject matter of these claims in a related co-pending application. Claims 31-34 are added. Support for new claims 31-34 is found throughout the specification, including, for example, at page 3, lines 6-11, and page 9, lines 10-18; page 10, lines 19 and 20; page 16, lines 24 and 25; page 17, lines 19 and 20; and in the Examples (*e.g.*, Examples 21 and 22). In addition, the specification and Abstract are amended to correct obvious typographical errors and to incorporate a reference to the parent application (USSN 10/172,388). No new matter is added by these amendments.

CONCLUSION

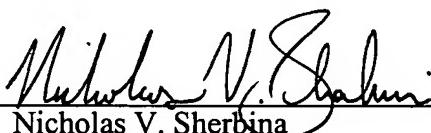
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 11, 2003

By:

  
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